

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments and arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-12 and 89 were previously pending in the instant application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1-12 and 89 have been rejected. By way of the above amendments Claims 1 and 89 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-12 and 89 are still pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-8, 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,123,023 to Ono (hereafter "Ono.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,752,446 to Squibb (hereafter "Squibb").

Within the Office Action, Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono in view of Squibb, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,934,503 to Kinney (hereafter "Kenny").

Within the Office Action, Claims 10 and 89 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono in view of Squibb, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,957,808 to Arai et al. (hereafter "Arai et al.").

The rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are considered moot in view of the above amendments. Specifically, each of the independent Claims 1 and 89 now each recite means for creating a pressure differential across the membrane. None of the prior art made of record teaches means for creating a pressure differential across a membrane of a micro-stencil.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-12 and 89 are now in condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss them so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: 8-2-04

By: Thomas B. Haverstock
Thomas B. Haverstock
Reg. No. 32,571

Attorney for Applicant(s)

STATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP.

Date: 8-2-04 By: [Signature]